

## FIFTY REASONS

WHY HENRY CLAY SHOULD NOT BE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The following fifty substantial reasons have struck us as a conclusive argument against the election of Henry Clay to the Presidency; and we doubt not that every person familiar with his history, who is anxious for the spread of moral and republican sentiments, can increase the number to one hundred.

He should not be elected President, because—

1. Of his coalition with John Quincy Adams, by which he secured the office of Secretary of State.

2. After that coalition, he abandoned all the republican principles that he had previously advocated, and thenceforth became the champion of old fashioned federalism.

3. His election would restore all the measures of the administrations of both the elder and younger Adams.

4. He took the lead in the attacks upon the generally-approved administration of General Jackson.

5. He was the author of the infamous resolution in the Senate of the United States, declaring General Jackson guilty of an impeachable offence against the constitution.

6. He urged the adoption of that resolution in the Senate, the only tribunal where such an offence was triable—thus making himself the accuser and judge.

7. He is in favor of a national bank, which Daniel Webster has called "an obsolete idea;" and the power to create which Mr. Clay himself, in 1811, called "a wandering power."

8. Whilst our country is in debt nearly \$27,000,000, he is advocating a distribution of the proceeds of our public lands among the States.

9. It seems to have been the study of his whole life to be disturbing and disarranging the tariff policy of this Government; at one time running the duties down to 20 per cent. ad valorem, and at another running them up to an amount equivalent, in many cases, to prohibition.

10. He is now Janus-faced upon the tariff question, advocating a revenue tariff at the south, and a protective tariff at the north.

11. He would confine the sale of the great agricultural staples of this country to the home market.

12. His home market doctrines would ruin our foreign commerce; would turn thousands of seamen loose in the world to seek other employment, and compete with the poorly paid laborers in other branches; and would leave our ships to be sold to the commercial men of other nations, or to rot at our wharves.

13. He is inseparably connected with those advocating the assumption of State debts by the General Government.

14. After pledging, in 1840, that the Government should be carried on for \$13,000,000, he proposed in the Senate an annual expenditure of \$26,000,000.

15. With a majority of friends in both branches of Congress, whom he could control at any time, his promised expenditure of only \$13,000,000 was increased to over \$29,000,000.

16. In the two years of whig ascendancy, when everything went as he dictated, the national debt was increased from \$8,000,000 to \$26,000,000.

17. His election would be considered as an expression of the people in favor of another bankrupt law, similar to the one just repealed; the avowed friend of which, Mr. Clay now is.

18. Under his construction of the constitution, all the reserved rights of the States will be destroyed.

19. After saying in March, 1818, when he belonged to the democratic party, "*I maintain that an oppressed people are authorized, whenever they can, to rise and break their fetters,*" he now, since he joined the federalists opposes the people of Rhode Island in their efforts to throw off a charter government given them by Charles II, King of England.

20. He supports a random scheme of internal improvements, like that which has bankrupted most of the States, and which, during an administration of four years, would run us in debt over \$200,000,000.

21. His moral character is not such as it should be, since it is useless to try with the rising generation to keep the standard of morality higher than that adopted by the men whom we elevate to the highest stations.

22. He is the only person who has travelled over the country personally electioneering for the highest office in the gift of the people.

23. He has offered to Great Britain all that portion of Oregon Territory north of 49°, after admitting that she had no color of a title to the same.

24. He opposes all measures for the protection of the Oregon settlers against the British and the Indians.

25. His doctrines in relation to Texas will lose us the command of the Gulf of Mexico, and bound our country on every side by British territory.

26. He is opposed to adopted citizens.

27. He has opposed all the vetoes of Presidents Jackson and Tyler.

28. He is under \$5,000 bonds to keep the peace.

29. He is passionate in council.

30. He is tyrannical with his supporters.

31. He is insolent and vindictive with his opponents.

32. He is for so amending the constitution as to deprive the President of the veto power.

33. He has united himself with Daniel Webster, and all the leading Hartford Convention federalists.

34. His character, habits, and disposition are too much like those of the leaders of the French Revolution.

35. In his speech, to which Mr. Rich, of Vermont, replied, February 17, 1820, he said: "*If gentlemen will not allow us to have black slaves, they must let us have white ones, for we cannot cut our firewood, and black our shoes, and have our wives and daughters work in the kitchen.*"

36. He is opposed to all measures for the speedy settlement of the new States, and consequently for bringing the lands into market.

37. His administration will favor every other interest over the agricultural, as the following extract from a speech of his proves: "*Agriculture needs no protection. The habits of farmers, generation after generation, pass down a long track of time in perpetual succession, without the slightest change; and the ploughman, who fastens his plough to the tail of his cattle, will not own there is any improvement equal to his.*"

38. His election would be in contradiction of the moral lesson, that infamy and disgrace follow a life of wickedness; and would be a poor incentive to the rising generation to walk in the paths of virtue.

39. He challenged John Randolph, of Roanoke, for words spoken in debate.

40. He made an electioneering tour through the southern States to Washington, in order to meet his excited partisans before and after their convention at Baltimore, thus giving his countenance to their revelries.

41. He caused the death of the late Hon. Jonathan Cilley.

42. After being a mason all his life, he now pretends, in order to get anti-masonic votes, not to know the signs requisite for admission to a masonic lodge.

43. He is opposed to the introduction of precious metals into our currency.

44. He is opposed to the separation of our national treasury from all banking institutions.

45. He is identified with the party which preferred submitting to the British doctrine of the right of search, rather than go to war with right on our side.

46. He countenances the most dissolute and desperate politicians; and, if elected, he must appoint a great many of them to office.

47. He encourages the new method of electioneering, where drunken revelry and bacchanalian songs take the place of reason and argument.

48. The natural tendency of his measures is to a consolidated despotism.

49. The people have four times rejected him as a candidate for President.

50. His election would be at war with all moral and political progress.

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